

DATELINE NO. 61 ANN ARBOR, MICH.
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"FOLK DANCE CLUB TAKES ITS FIRST AMERICAN STEPS"
(TAPE INSERTS AVAILABLE IN TRANSCRIPTION LIBRARY)

ANNCR: AND NOW, THE VOICE OF AMERICA PRESENTS DATELINE --
ANOTHER IN THE SERIES OF PROGRAMS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES
AND EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES... TODAY'S DATELINE
IS ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN...THE STORY DEALS WITH A FOLK
DANCE CLUB WHICH HAS TAKEN ITS FIRST AMERICAN STEPS...
AND THE REPORTER IS-----.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MUSIC ("BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN") -- IN FULL
TO 0:05, THEN FADE FOR

NARR: YOU ARE LISTENING TO AMERICAN FOLK DANCE MUSIC...

TAPE: BRING MUSIC UP FULL AT THE SOUND OF CLOGGING (0:09), HOLD
BRIEFLY, THEN FADE AND HOLD UNDER

NARR: ...THIS PARTICULAR SONG IS ENTITLED "BRING THEM CABBAGE
DOWN" -- AND THE SOUND YOU'RE ALSO HEARING IS THAT OF
A DANCER PERFORMING WHAT IS CALLED "CLOGGING" OR "CLOG
DANCING"...

TAPE: BRING MUSIC UP FULL AGAIN, HOLD AS DESIRED (TOTAL LENGTH
OF CUT 0:57), THEN FADE FOR

TAPE: CUT TWO -- BANNERMAN

"CLOG DANCING COMES FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA,
AROUND ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA."

NARR: ...AND THIS IS GLENN BANNERMAN, THE GENTLEMAN WHO BROUGHT CLOGGING OR CLOG DANCING ALMOST AS FAR NORTH AS POSSIBLE IN THE UNITED STATES, TO THE COMMUNITY OF ANN ARBOR, IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN...

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BANNERMAN

"THE DANCING WE DO ORIGINATED FROM THE EUROPEAN-ENGLISH TRADITION -- SCOT, IRISH, ENGLISH TRADITION -- AND AS PEOPLE SETTLED IN THIS COUNTRY, THE ART FORM OF THE DANCE BEGAN TO TAKE ON DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN MUSIC STYLE, WITH THE FIDDLE, THE BANJO, THE GUITAR, BASS, COMING INTO ITS OWN WITH ITS OWN KIND OF MUSIC. PEOPLE BEGAN TO CHANGE PATTERNS OF THE ENGLISH DANCES TO THE EXTENT THAT IT BECAME A MOUNTAIN-TYPE OF DANCE THAT HAS ITS OWN CHARACTERISTIC, THAT BEING THE BIG CIRCLE, WHERE EVERYBODY DANCES TOGETHER IN ONE GREAT BIG CIRCLE."

NARR: BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, LET ME ADD THAT MISTER BANNERMAN -- THE GENTLEMAN WHOSE VOICE YOU'RE JUST HEARD -- IS NEITHER A PROFESSIONAL DANCER NOR A FOLKLORIST: BY VOCATION, HE IS AN EDUCATOR -- MISTER BANNERMAN IS PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. BY AVOCATION, HOWEVER, MISTER BANNERMAN AND HIS FAMILY ARE CLOG DANCERS...

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- BANNERMAN

"I GUESS YOU WOULD CALL THIS ONE OF THE EARLIEST AMERICAN ETHNIC DANCES, AS SUCH. FROM THIS, THE SQUARE-DANCE-TYPE OF FORMATIONS HAVE COME, (WHAT) WE CALL NOW WESTERN SQUARE DANCING -- FOUR COUPLES IN A SET WHO FORM A LITTLE SQUARE ON THE FLOOR, AND YOU HAVE MANY SQUARES ON THE FLOOR. BUT THIS PARTICULAR DANCE IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST FORMS OF AMERICAN FOLK DANCE."

NARR: ...AND YET, CLOGGING -- OR CLOG DANCING -- WAS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN TO A GROUP WHICH SPENDS A LOT OF ITS FREE TIME STUDYING FOLK DANCING: THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FOLK DANCE CLUB... IT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AND DURING THAT PERIOD, IT HAS SPREAD THE DANCES, MUSIC AND CULTURES OF OTHER COUNTRIES THROUGH ITS WEEKLY SESSIONS AND THROUGH WORKSHOPS GIVEN BY PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS WHO ARE USUALLY NATIVES OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS HUNGARY, TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA AND MANY OTHERS... FOR ABOUT TWENTY YEARS THEN, THE FOLK DANCE CLUB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TAUGHT AMERICANS THE DANCES OF MANY COUNTRIES; A FEW WEEKENDS AGO, MISTER BANNERMAN TAUGHT THEM THE STEPS OF THE EARLIEST FORM OF AMERICAN FOLK DANCE. AND THAT'S WHERE WE FOUND MISTER BANNERMAN -- IN A HUGE HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, SURROUNDED BY AN ENRAPTURED AUDIENCE, WATCHING HIM PERFORM AND EXPLAIN CLOG DANCING...

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- BANNERMAN

"YOU START OUT WITH BIG CIRCLE FIGURES. EVERYBODY'LL CIRCLE LEFT AND EVERYBODY WILL CIRCLE RIGHT. SWING YOUR PARTNER, THEN THEY'LL PROMENADE... YOU HAVE A CALLER OR PROMPTER WOULD BE THE BETTER WORD, THAT DANCES ON THE FLOOR GENERALLY AND HE'LL CALL OUT FIGURES, 'CIRCLE TO THE LEFT AND AWAY YOU GO!' OR 'CIRCLE RIGHT, DON'T BE SLOW! SWING YOUR PARTNER AND PROMENADE.' NOW, IF YOU CAN'T HEAR ACROSS THE CIRCLE YOU'LL WATCH IN HIS DIRECTION AND YOU FOLLOW WHAT HE'S DOING."

NARR: ...AND WHAT HE'S DOING, SOUNDS LIKE THIS:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- SOUND OF BANNERMAN CLOGGING AND EXPLAINING HIS STEPS -- HOLD AS DESIRED, THEN FADE UNDER AND SLOWLY OUT BEHIND

NARR: TO SOME OF OUR LISTENERS -- PARTICULARLY THOSE IN EASTERN EUROPE -- THE BASICS OF CLOG DANCING WILL, NO DOUBT, SOUND FAMILIAR: INDEED, CLOG DANCING WILL SOUND AWFULLY REMINISCENT OF A DANCE KNOWN AS THE "HORA" OR "CHORO" -- BUT CLOG DANCING DOES HAVE ITS OWN PARTICULARS:

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- BANNERMAN

"OF COURSE, A LOT OF THE FIGURES COME FROM, AS I SAY, FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND EVERY COUNTRY, JUST ABOUT, HAS A DANCE WHERE YOU'LL CIRCLE LEFT AND CIRCLE RIGHT. BUT, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE FIGURES LIKE (WHAT) WE CALL 'BIRDIE IN THE CAGE.' WE HAVE FIGURES LIKE 'DUCK FOR THE OYSTER,' 'DIVE FOR THE CLAM,' 'HEAD FOR THE HOLE IN THE OLD TIN CAN.' THESE ARE THE KINDS OF FIGURES THAT HAVE GROWN UP OUT OF OUR OWN TRADITION. SO, WE'VE GOT A LOT OF PURE AMERICAN ETHNIC DANCING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO WHAT WE MIGHT TERM BALLROOM DANCING -- WHERE TWO PEOPLE JUST DANCE TOGETHER. BUT THIS OTHER IS REALLY SOCIAL DANCING, WHERE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO ENJOY EACH OTHER."

NARR: AND SO, IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN THAT AREA OF SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES WE CALL APPALACHIA ON ALMOST ANY SATURDAY NIGHT AND YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF FEET HITTING THE FLOOR...GET CLOSER: YOU'LL SEE ONE OF THE MOST AUTHENTIC AND CERTAINLY ONE OF THE EARLIEST FORMS OF AMERICAN FOLK DANCING... CLOGGING...

TAPE: CUT EIGHT -- WHICH HAS SNEAKED UNDER THE ABOVE, NOW COMES UP FULL, HOLDS AS DESIRED THEN TRAILS OFF BEHIND

ANNCR: THIS HAS BEEN DATELINE, THE WEEKLY VOICE OF AMERICA
PROGRAM WHICH BRINGS YOU PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN
THE UNITED STATES... TODAY'S DATELINE HAS BEEN ANN
ARBOR, MICHIGAN. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT----- (AT THIS TIME)
FOR ANOTHER DATELINE... FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE
UNITED STATES.

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